



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Friday, August 15, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety seizes 327 pounds of marijuana after routine traffic stop on I-17

On August 14, 2008, at about 8:00 p.m., an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officer stopped a commercial vehicle (semi tractor trailer) on Interstate 17 near Camp Verde for an equipment violation. During a search, the Officer noticed a duffle bag at the front of a load of liquid filled barrels inside the trailer. The bag contained 327 pounds of marijuana.

Along with the marijuana, the commercial vehicle was seized as part of the forfeiture.

Arrested: Robert Del Raso, 36, of Chicago

Charges: Possession and Transportation of Drugs for Sale

On August 10, 2008, at about 8:00 a.m., a DPS Officer stopped a commercial vehicle on northbound Interstate 17 at Jomax Road for an equipment violation. The Officer noticed 20 boxes not listed in the manifest and thrown on top of the legitimate load of frozen seafood. A total of 562 pounds of marijuana was seized.

“Interstate 17 is a major drug corridor in the state and these two seizures show the lengths to which drug smugglers will go to get their product into this country. DPS Officers know what to look for as we take drugs off the streets and thereby help make our communities safer,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of DPS.

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